IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Title on page 1 as follows:

COLOR IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS HAVING A VARIABLE CONTROLLED SPEED RATIO

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

However, the Japanese Patent mentioned above simply teaches a method capable of maintaining the speed of a sheet constant without regard to the extension or the positional shift of an image that may occur due to a difference in diameter between the drums or the eccentricity of the drums. Further, the above document does not show or describe a method of varying a speed ratio in accordance with the mode. In this connection, a method of enhancing transferability by providing a difference between the speed of an image transfer belt, which bifunctions as a conveyor, and the speed of the drums is conventional with a monochromatic copier.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

More specifically, in the Laid-Open Publication mentioned above, the belt is provided with a circumferential length which is non-integral times as great as the circumference of the individual drum. Further, assume that each drum has a circumference of Ld and moves at a peripheral speed of Vd, that the belt has a circumferential length of Lb and moves at a peripheral speed of Vb, that a speed difference ratio of the belt to the drum is ΔV ($\neq 0$), and that n is an integer. Then, the above document defines the relation between the circumferential length of the belt and the circumference of the drum as:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

More specifically, the drums 11, 12, 13 and 14 are assigned to magenta (M), cyan (C), yellow (Y) and black (BK), respectively, and arranged side by side in the direction in which the belt 50 conveys the sheet P, as indicated by an arrow in FIG. 1. An M drum motor 21, a C drum motor 22, a Y drum motor 23 and a BK drum motor 24 respectively cause the M, C, Y and BK drums to rotate. The drum motors 21 through 24 are connected to the drum speed controller 31, so that the ~~rotation~~ rotational speeds of the drums 11 through 14 can be controlled independently of each other or controlled to a preselected value together. The drum speed controller 31 therefore serves to vary the ratio Vb/Vd. Roller driving/bias applying means F applies a bias for image transfer to each of the image transfer rollers 41 through 44, which are positioned beneath the drums 11 through 14, respectively.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 2 shows an intermediate or indirect image transfer type of tandem, electrostatic color image forming apparatus representative of a second embodiment of the present invention. As shown, the BK drum 14 through M drum 11 are sequentially arranged in this order from the upstream side to the downstream side in the direction in which an endless, intermediate image transfer belt 100 moves. The BK drum motor 24, Y drum motor 23, C drum motor 22 and M drum motor 21 drive the BK drum 14, Y drum 13, C drum 12 and M drum 11, respectively. Again, the drum motors 21 through 24 are connected to the drum speed controller 31, so that the ~~rotation~~ rotational speeds of the drums 11 through 14 can be controlled independently of each other or controlled to a preselected value together. The image transfer rollers, or primary image transferring means, 41 through 44 are positioned

beneath the drums 11 through 14, respectively, and applied with an image transfer bias from the roller driving/bias applying means F each.

Please replace the Abstract at page 40, with the following rewritten Abstract: